

SOURAV DE

www.souravde.com

To be an able human being. To reach out to people with my photographs, my work, abilities and portray the various shades of life and human mind. To help preserve the heritage spots and our environment and enable people to survive in a better world. To grow as an individual by developing and enhancing my skills and abilities and doing the needful to build a better society by being an integral part of the same.

In the year 2011, I directed my first Bengali short film based on a real village, named “Mohulti”. The Story and Direction have been done by myself. For more details : <http://thefilm.maluti.org/>

“Mohulti”

Synopsis:

Soumik returns to his native village, Maluti, after 18 long years. The same old roads, the same old soil. The little Soumik used to tread on these roads holding his father's hand, listening to the stories his father told him about the history of Maluti. Today his father is no more but the memories have remained of the times gone by. Now living abroad for several years, Soumik could not even come to perform his father's last rites. So why is he coming back after so many years? We don't know, nor does his wife Jasmin, who belongs to a foreign land.

As the story progresses, a different and unfamiliar facade of Soumik unfolds to Jasmin. The relationship starts crumbling. Memories, helplessness and love start dissolving in the chasm of Maluti. Conflict and confrontation of views and decisions occurs. To Soumik, there is no hope for Maluti but for Jasmin the hope has just begun. Finally, Soumik decides to leave his native village in its yore, selling off his paternal property, while Jasmin stays back to protect the fascinating history of the place. Jasmin and Gopalbabu (the person who has fought single handed for the rights of the village till now) begins a quest for a light for Maluti.



One of the Poster



Making of Mohulti

Promo : https://youtu.be/_jJ1bl_kB4o

“1:30 am”

Bengali short stories give short stories written in other languages a run for their money. Why not Bengali short films? The result of these haunting questions resolved my mind to make a dozen of short-films, each of which would be unique in idea, inimitable in content and distinct in style. I have been fascinated by the world movies which champion the movies with sublime truth. I made “1:30 am” in the year 2012.

'1.30 am' revolves round Nishi, a teenage girl with split personality. She unfolds the different shades of life within a unity of time, place and action. As a teenager she confronts her own self, desires, fears and reflects the varied shadows of darkness surrounding her life.



Achievements of “1:30 am”



Jaipur International Film Festival, India
“Best Cinematographer”
<http://www.jiffindia.org>



Mumbai Shorts International Film Festival, India
Best Short Film
<http://www.miniboxoffice.com>



Indie Gathering Film Festival, Ohio, USA
“BEST FOREIGN SUSPENSE THRILLER SHORT FILM”
<http://www.theindiegathering.com>



Los Angeles Movie Awards, USA
‘Honorable Mention’ for 1:30 am
www.thelamovieawards.com



Asians On Film Awards – Spring 2012
‘Honorable Mention’ for Best Cinematographer/DP Short Film
<http://www.asiansonfilm.com/2012/07/asians-on-film-awards-spring-2012>



The Fest Film Festival - April 2012
‘Award of Excellence’
http://theindiefest.com/?page_id=163

“1:30 am” has been Nominated and Screened in 18 National and International Film Festivals.

Promo : https://youtu.be/ULB_0YxclGs

In the year 2013, I directed a feature film called

“Cactus”

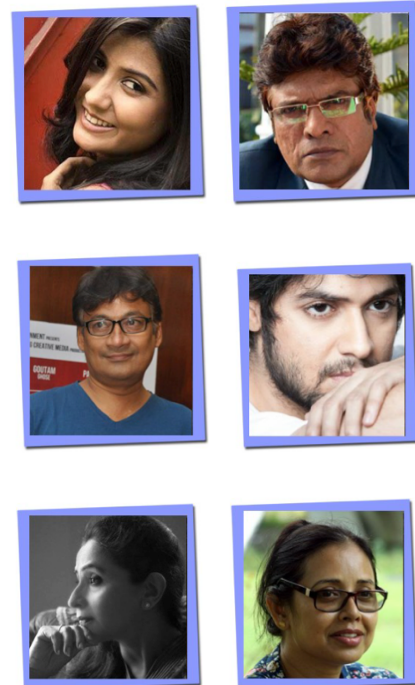
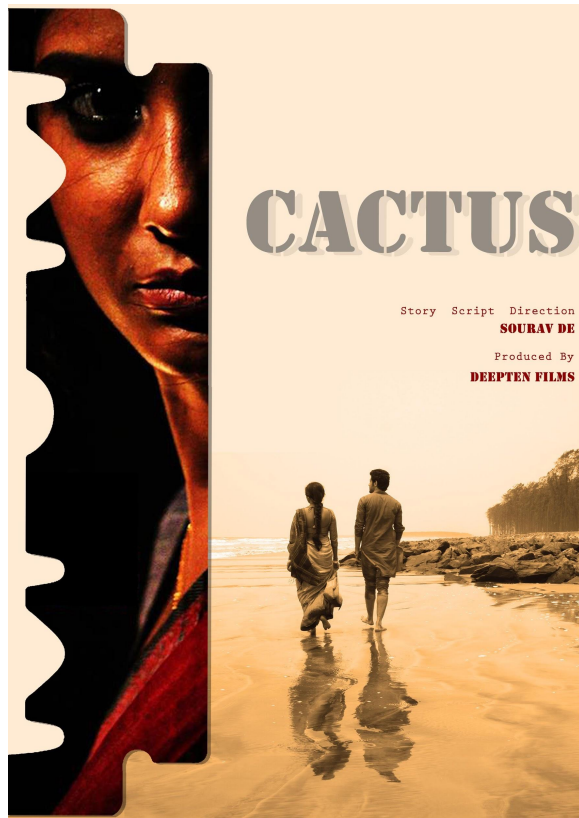
Synopsis :

Milu, the protagonist of the film, belongs to a middle-class family of North Kolkata. On her birthday she spent the day with her boyfriend, Akash on the sea-shore just beyond the city limits. Both the families know about their relationship.

On her way back home, Milu was accosted by two persons sent by Kumud Purkayastha, a promoter in Milu's neighbourhood, who has been making abortive attempts to buy the house belonging to Milu's family.

Kumud hired his two henchmen to bring her to his office on a pretext. His intention was to strike the aborted deal by arm-twisting her father through blackmailing and threatening.

Milu returned home devastated, where several attempts were made to torture her mentally and physically. She thought she would find her father, mother and Akash by her side as a rock-solid support. But she was wrong. She understood that no one was there for her after these incidents. Fighting alone with the stigma of being molested by the goons of the society, she finally makes an attempt to discover freedom by walking out of her house.



Promo : <https://youtu.be/iAZiiXL6ShI>

“KUJO”, Completed in 2016

Synopsis :

It is a film based on some true events. It is not a movie in a typical sense, as there is no straight narrative. It is neither a typical tale of a tortured woman. It is a tale much of which remains untold. The protagonist is a sex-slave. It throws light on some dark sides of human lives. It is a study of the darker sides of the characters - of a boss, a caretaker, a customer and a victim. They are individuals representing universal greed, lust, sadism, voyeurism and despondence.

The room in the movie itself is a character in the movie. Though modern in its look and appearance, the room is unkempt, dirty and a little dark. The dirt in the room represents the dirty mind of the trader (boss), caretaker and customers. Like a real character, the room in the movie changes its mood with time. The only respite from this over bearing dirt and darkness is a small hole on the opaque layer of newspaper that covers the windows. It is the only window for her hope, light and connection with the outer world.



“Kujo” has been Nominated in
All Lights India International Film Festival 2016
RAMOJI FILM CITY, India

Official Selection
Headline International Film Festival, USA

Behind the Scene



“GOAL”, 2017



Synopsis :

The man is edgy for certain reason. He remains restless. The boys are busy playing football outside. The man suddenly carries a chair to the next room. Outside, a foul is committed and referee whistles for penalty shot. A boy takes position for the shot. Goal keeper also gets ready. Inside, the man wipes the fan-blades clean. Then he ties the fan with one end of the cloth. He then ties the other end around his neck. Outside, the referee whistles. The boy starts running towards the ball.

Inside the man tries to kick the chair away. Right at this moment, his phone starts ringing. He gets indecisive, starts untying the cloth around his neck. Outside, the boy kicks off the ball. Goal keeper looks at the ball going long over the goalpost. The ball goes...goes and straight hits the chair to dislodge it inside the room. The man's legs start shaking vigorously. They become still. The boy misses the goal

It's short and sweet



Tanusree in 'Mohuti', (right) Ena Saha in '1:30 am'



Director Sourav De is set to come up with a dozen of short-films and he is aiming for a commercial release. "My attempt is to create an audience who can watch a film in between his appointments and pushoff for his next assignments," he said and added that the films are experimental in approach, revolutionary in concept and universal in their acceptance.

"1:30 am" — is about a teenage girl Nishi (played by Ena Saha) with split personality. It is a single-character movie on how a girl lives with her dual personality," informed Sourav. "Mohuti", is another short-film where Tanusree and Shamik Chatterjee play the lead. "It is about breaking and making of relationships against the backdrop of a heritage village, Mohuti," Sourav signed off.

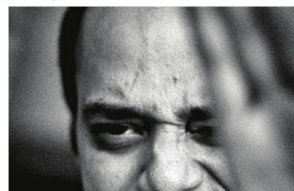
Compiled by Dibyajoti Chaudhuri, Ruman Ganguly and Roshni Mukherjee

Rhooi bhooi oi



From photography to direction

Sourav De talks about *1:30am* — A Story of Nishi and his dream to make a film on the works of Bangladeshi author Taslima Nasreen



Ashok Chatterjee
Filmmaker Sourav De is happy the way his career has been taking shape. After all, the photographer-turned-filmmaker's *1:30 am* — A Story of Nishi is getting rave reviews after being shown in Nandan earlier this month. He says, "I never imagined that my experimental, 43-minute work will draw so much attention. I was really overwhelmed. These reviews blow to my face."

Nishi, the central character of my film is being played by Ena, who is just 17-years-old. Ena was very excited about the script. We shot continuously for eight days and wrapped up the shooting in March and then completed the editing," says De. While *1:30 am* — A Story of Nishi released first, the script of *Nimantran* is also ready and if he gets a good producer, he will shoot the film as well. "The first film is



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Taslima tale on big screen

TNN | Oct 12, 2011, 12:22 PM IST



Rupa Bhattacharjee, sporting the 'Neela' look

A Taslima Nasreen story — with all its nuances of love, trust and betrayal — is set to be turned into a Bengali film. Starring Rupa Bhattacharjee in the lead, the movie is being made by Sourav De, marking a first not just for the filmmaker but also for Taslima.

This is his first big screen shot and also the first time a story by the Bangladeshi author is being adapted on celluloid.

Titled 'Nimantran', the film is based on a short story by the same name. "I chose Nimantran for my big-screen debut to debunk the notion that Taslima always means controversy. The story does not have any political or religious undercurrents. It is a simple story of a girl, Neela, from a lower middle-class background and her fight for survival. She falls in love with a guy and gets brutally raped. From here the story takes a 180-degree turn.

The film also captures how rape completely changes her character," says Sourav, who has made documentaries and short films earlier.

But why a Taslima story for his debut? "I am a big fan of Taslima's work. I've always wondered why no filmmaker has made a film out of any of her stories. And why should I run scared of making a film in a democratic country? This was one of her earliest stories, written about 24 years back. I like the sudden jerk in the tale," reveals Sourav, who is penning the script. "With Taslima's consent, I have changed the ending."

"I was surprised when Sourav picked this forgotten story of mine for his film. But after long hours of discussion, I was convinced that he will make a good film out of it."



I keep experimenting with trivial things. I am fascinated by looking at life from different angles. Not always through human-eyes, but through the eye of commonplace things. However insignificant they appear to be in their daily existence, each subject portrays a gripping tale of a life and its cherished moments.

And movie is, perhaps, the next logical shift I can have. Being a film-buff, I receive a great excitement and immense satisfaction in its making.

Thank You.

Sourav De, Kolkata

Member of DAEI (Film & TV)

Member of IMPPA

Associated with Global Heritage Fund

President of Save Heritage & Environment Society

Contributor of Time of India